

# Data Security and Privacy in Distributed Collaborative Scenarios

**Pierangela Samarati**

Dipartimento di Informatica  
Università degli Studi di Milano  
pierangela.samarati@unimi.it

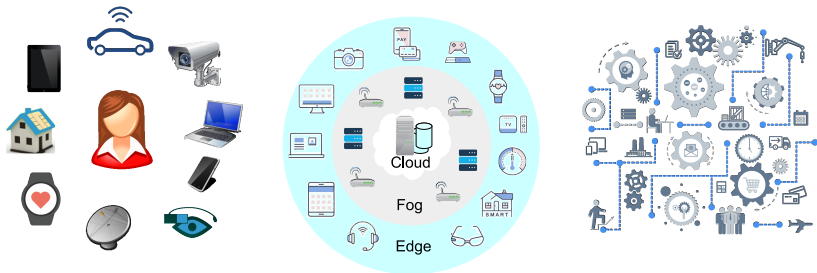
European Network for Cybersecurity (NeCS) PhD School

Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy – January 8, 2024



# ICT ecosystem

- Advancements in the ICT and networks have changed our society
- 5G and 6G, infrastructures and services are more powerful, efficient, and complex

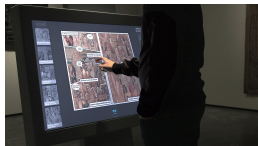


- ICT and network advancements are enabling factors for a smart society ...

# ... Everything is getting smart



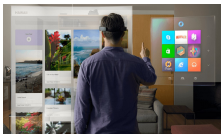
Smart car



Museum and exhibitions



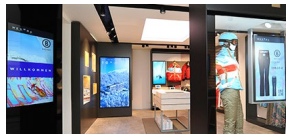
Health Care



Augmented reality



Smart e-commerce



Intelligent shops



Smart entertainment systems



Smart governance



Smart toothbrush

# Smart society





# Smart society - Advantages



# Smart services and security – Advantages

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- + Better protection mechanisms
- + Business continuity and disaster recovery
- + Prevention and response

... but ...

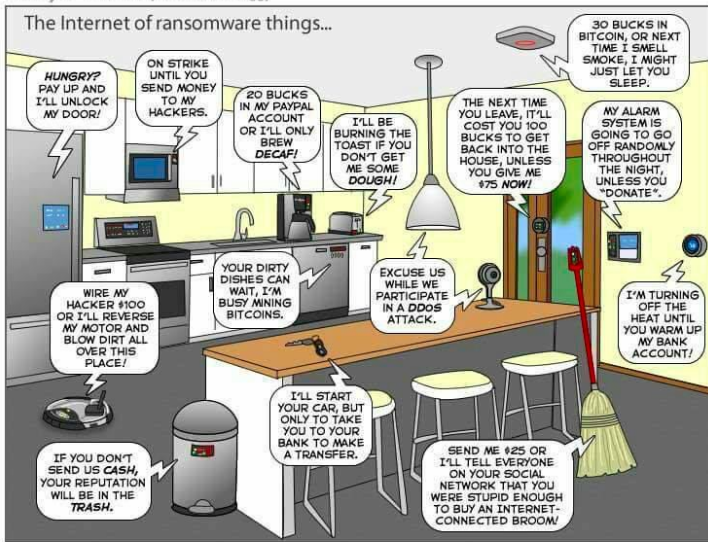
# Smart services and security – Disadvantages

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- More complexity ...
  - ... **weakest link** becomes a **point of attack**
    - system hacking
    - improper information leakage
    - data and process tampering
- **Explosion of damages and violations**
- **Loss of control over data and processes**

# Maybe too smart? – 1

The Joy of Tech™ by Nitrozac & Snaggy



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# Maybe too smart? – 2



An EU data watchdog has warned of the "considerable risks" to privacy posed by new energy smart meters.

The European Data Protection Supervisor said safeguards were needed over how firms used the "massive collection" of consumers' data uploaded by meters.



Markey Report Reveals Automobile Security and Privacy Vulnerabilities  
Monday, February 9, 2013  
Wireless technologies leave vehicles exposed to hackers; information collected on driver locations, habits

WASHINGTON (February 9, 2014) - New standards are needed to plug security and privacy gaps in our cars and trucks, according to a report released today by Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.). The report, called "Tracking & Tracking: Security & Privacy Gaps Put American Drivers at Risk" and first reported on by CBS News' 60 Minutes, reveals how sixteen major automobile manufacturers responded to questions from Senator Markey in 2014 about how vehicles may be vulnerable to hackers, and how driver information is collected and protected.

# Security ... a complex problem



Protection of infrastructure



Protection of communication



Protection against malware and attacks

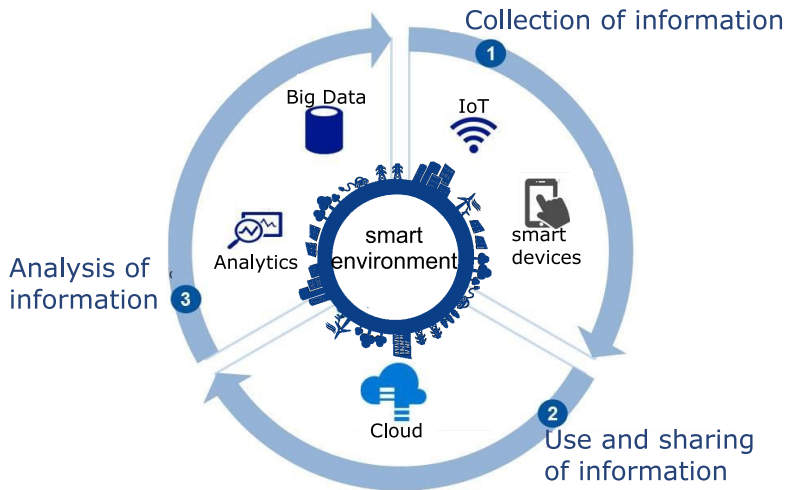


Protection of devices



Protection of data

# The role of data in a smart environment

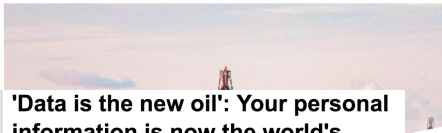


⇒ better governance and intelligent systems

# The most valuable resource - Data

INQUIRER

## The new oil: data is the world's most valuable resource



**'Data is the new oil': Your personal information is now the world's most valuable commodity**

Huge amounts of data are controlled by just 5 global mega-corporations that bigger than most governments

By Ramona Pringle, CBC News | Posted: Aug 25, 2017 5:00 AM ET | Last Updated: Aug 25, 2017 11:28 AA

## Big Data and Analytics Play an Important Role in the Energy Industry

RealTimeDAILY

AROUND THE NET

## Data Is Now The World's Most Valuable Resource

The Economist, Monday, May 8, 2017 6:22 AM

Data is now the world's most valuable resource according to *The Economist*, which reports on antitrust concerns about Alphabet (Google's parent company), Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Microsoft, all of which have tons of data. The

Fuel of the future

Data is giving rise to a new economy

How is it shaping up?



Why is data protection so important?

06 February 2017

digitally needs to be properly protected. From financial information for your staff, data usage in the UK is protected by legal necessity, but crucial to protecting and maintaining your

PARTNER CONTENT ARVIND SINGH

bus IS BIG DATA THE NEW BLACK GOLD?



# Impact on data protection and privacy

## Uber reveals 2.7 million UK users of its app were affected by a mass data breach that saw names, emails and phone numbers stolen

- Uber has revealed 2.7m UK users of its app were affected by a 2016 data breach
- The taxi-hailing firm then tried to cover up the breach for more than a year
- It was also found Uber had paid two hackers £75,000 to delete the data

By Tyler Furler  
Over 100GB of Secret Consumer Credit Data Leaked Online

A collection of 1.4 Billion Plain-Text leaked credentials is available online

December 12, 2017 By Pierluigi Paganini



A 41-gigabyte archive containing 1.4 Billion credentials in clear text was found in dark web, it had been updated at the end of November

## Former nursing home employee admits stealing residents' credit card numbers

Shaniece Borney, 29, will be forced to pay the victims back and could face an additional \$250,000 fine, 10 years in prison or both.

NEWS

## Facebook admits to far higher number of data breaches

Facebook has said personal data on 87 million users was shared with Cambridge Analytica, millions more than it admitted earlier. The social media giant also unveiled new privacy rules, but the whiff of scandal lingers.

## Computer Scientists Develop a Simple Tool to Tell If Websites Suffered a Data Breach

Published: December 12, 2017.

## Uber says data breach compromised 380K users in Singapore

Ride-sharing company reveals 380,000 in Singapore were affected by the massive data breach that compromised 57 million accounts globally, but says no fraud or misuse has been tied to these users.

By Ellen Yu for The Wall Street Journal | December 11, 2017 | 3:01 PM GMT+7 | Topic: Security



NEWS

## 63,500 records breached by misconfigured database

by Jessica Davis | April 12, 2018

## Californian Voters Suffer Major Data Breach

MAR 01 2018

## Equifax discovers another 2.4 million customers hit by data breach

Posted by Dissent at 11:02 am | Business Sector, Hack, U.S.

## Deloitte hit by cyber-attack revealing clients' secret emails

Exclusive: hackers may have accessed usernames, passwords and personal details of top accountancy firm's blue-chip clients



Privacy

## Carphone Warehouse Breach: 'Striking' Failures Trigger Fine

Matthew J. Schwartz - January 10, 2018

Mobile phone retailer Carphone Warehouse has been hit with one of the largest fines ever imposed by Britain's data privacy watchdog

## The Dutch Data Protection Authority accidentally leaked its employees' data

By MK - 4 weeks

Approx. 9,000 Penn students affected by security breach that released their private information

By Kelly Holznagel | 03/12/18 6:50pm

SECURITY

MASSIVE

Personal Data of Over 143 Million Americans Stolen from a Credit Reporting Firm



Dr. #

Dr.

18

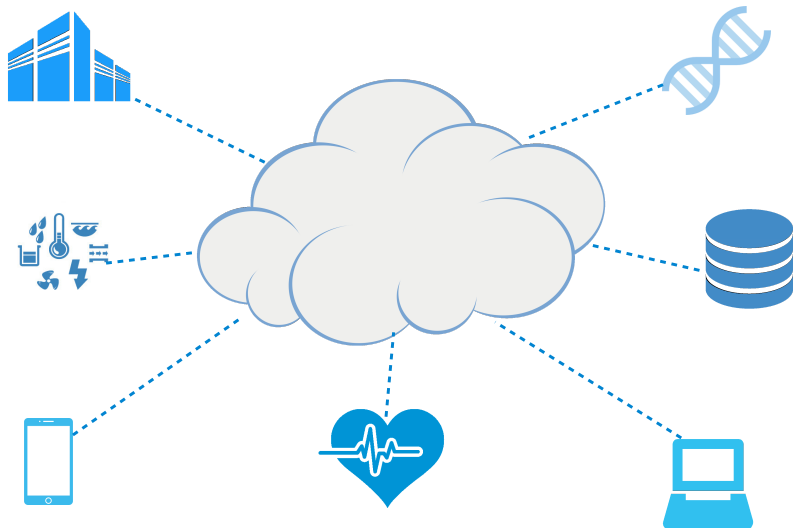
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REPORT

MyFitnessPal breach affects millions of Under Armour users

# Huge amount of data stored at external providers



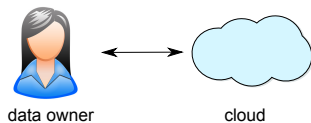
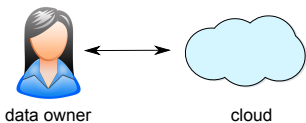
# Cloud computing

- The Cloud allows users and organizations to rely on external providers for storing, processing, and accessing their data
  - + high configurability and economy of scale
  - + data and services are always available
  - + scalable infrastructure for applications
- Users lose control over their own data
  - new security and privacy problems
- Need solutions to protect data and to securely process them in the cloud



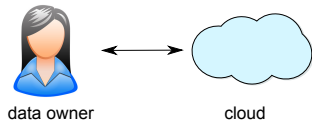
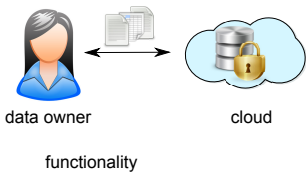
# Cloud computing: Today

Cloud Service Providers (CSPs) apply security measures in the services they offer **but** these measures protect only the perimeter and storage against outsiders



# Cloud computing: Today

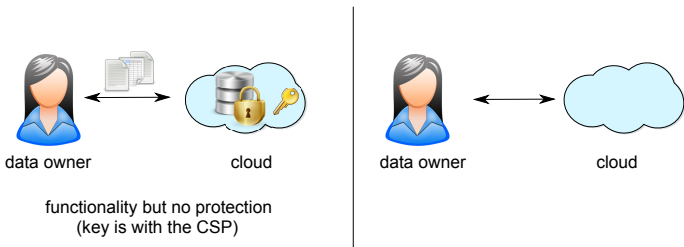
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- functionality

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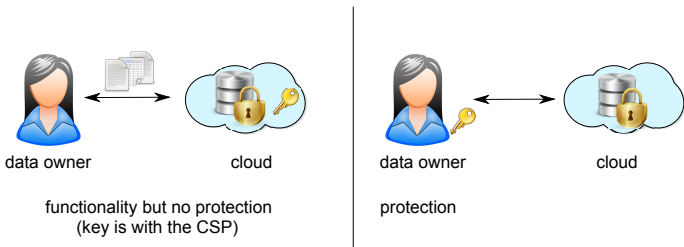
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- functionality implies **full trust in the CSP** that has full access to the data (e.g., Google Cloud Storage, iCloud)

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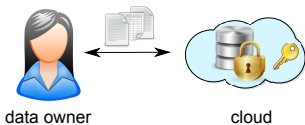
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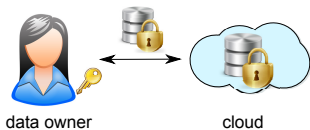
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- protection

# Cloud computing: Today

Cloud Service Providers (CSPs) apply security measures in the services they offer **but** these measures protect only the perimeter and storage against outsiders



functionality but no protection  
(key is with the CSP)



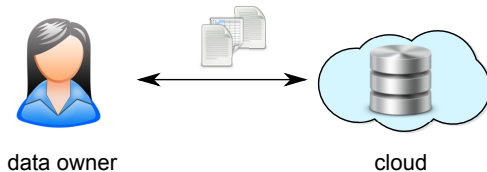
protection but limited functionality  
(you cannot access data as you like)

- functionality implies **full trust in the CSP** that has full access to the data (e.g., Google Cloud Storage, iCloud)
- protection but **limited functionality** since the CSP cannot access data (e.g., Boxcryptor, SpiderOak)



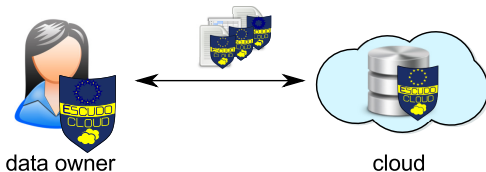
# Cloud computing: New vision

Solutions that provide protection guarantees giving the data owners both: full control over their data and cloud functionality over them



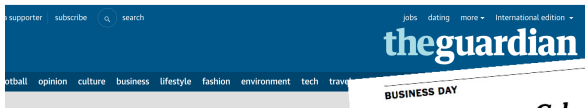
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- client-side trust boundary: only the behavior of the client should be considered trusted
  - ⇒ techniques and implementations supporting direct processing of encrypted data in the cloud

# Data protection – Base level



Yahoo hack: 1bn accounts compromised by biggest data breach in history

The latest incident to emerge - which happened in 2013 - is probably distinct from the breach of 500m user accounts in 2014

Technology

## Hackers steal 2.5 million PlayStation and Xbox players' details in major breach



theguardian

BUSINESS DAY

## Equifax Says Cyberattack May Have Affected 143 Million in the U.S.

BY CARA SIEGEL BERNARD, TIFFANY HSU, NICOLE PERLROTH and RON LIEBER SEPT. 7, 2017

theguardian

Deloitte hit by cyber-attack revealing clients' secret emails

Exclusive: hackers may have accessed usernames, passwords and details of top accountancy firm's blue-chip clients

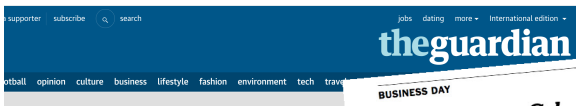
The Register  
Biting the hand that feeds IT

DATA CENTRE SOFTWARE SECURITY TRANSFORMATION DEVOPS BUSINESS PERSONAL TECH

Security

## Two million customer records pillaged in IT souk CeX hack attack

# Data protection – Base level



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The latest incident to emerge - which happened in 2013 - is probably distinct from the breach of 500m user accounts in 2014

Technology

## Hackers steal 2.5 million PlayStation and Xbox players'

### Healthcare IT News

Privacy & Security

## Even with encryption, EMR data at risk

'While encryption could offer some protections ... it also has serious limitations'

BUSINESS DAY  
**Equifax Says Cyberattack May Have Affected 143 Million in the U.S.**

theguardian  
Deloitte hit by cyber-attack revealing clients' secret emails

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Biting the hand that feeds IT

RE SOFTWARE SECURITY TRANSFORMATION DEVOPS BUSINESS PERSONAL TECH

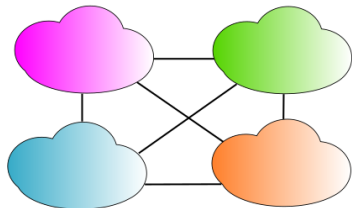
Security

**Two million customer records pillaged in IT souk CeX hack attack**

# Data protection – Regulation



Access and usage control



Selective sharing



Governance and regulation

# Data protection – Confidentiality (1)

- Minimize release/exposition
  - correlation among different data sources
  - indirect exposure of sensitive information
  - de-identification  $\neq$  anonymization



## TECHNOLOGY | UNBOXED

### *Big Data Is Opening Doors, but Maybe Too Many*

By STEVE LOHR MARCH 23, 2013

IN the 1960s, mainframe computers posed a significant technological challenge to common notions of privacy. That's when the federal government started putting tax returns into those giant machines, and consumer credit bureaus began building databases containing the personal financial information of millions of Americans. Many people feared that the new computerized databanks would be put in the service of an intrusive corporate or government Big Brother.

# Data protection – Confidentiality (2)

THREAT LEVEL Primary

## Netflix Spilled Your Brokeback Mountain Secret. Lawsuit Claims

BY RYAN SINGEL 12.17.09 4:29 PM

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### Gay men 'can be identified by their Facebook friends'

Homosexual men can be identified just by looking at their Facebook friends, a unpublished research by two students at the Massachusetts Institute of Tec



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NATURE | NEWS

## Privacy loophole found in genetic databases

DNA donors' identities can be determined from publicly available records.

Erika Check Hayden

17 January 2013

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### A Face Is Exposed for AOL Searcher No. 4417749

By MICHAEL BARBARO and TOM ZELLER Jr.  
Published: August 9, 2006

Buried in a list of 20 million Web search queries collected by AOL and recently released on the Internet is user No. 4417749. The number was assigned by the company to protect the searcher's anonymity, but it was not much of a shield.



No. 4417749 conducted hundreds of searches over a three-month period on topics ranging from "numb fingers" to "60 single men" to "dog that urinates on everything."

And search by search, click by click, the identity of AOL user No. 4417749 became easier to discern. There are queries for "landscapers in Lilburn, Ga.," several people with the last name Arnold and "homes sold in shadow lake

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL THIS  
PRINT  
REPRINTS

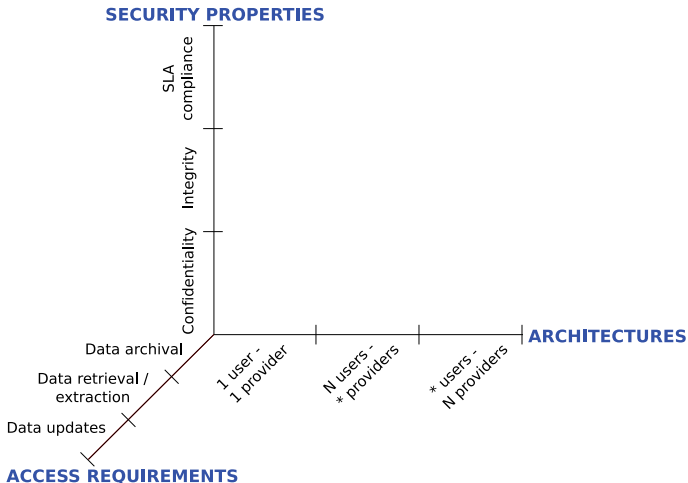
THE WAY BACK WATCH TRAILER

# Characterization of Data Protection Challenges in Cloud Scenarios



# Scientific and technical challenges

Three dimensions characterize the problems and challenges



# Security properties



## **Confidentiality**

- data externally stored
- users identities
- actions that users perform on the data



## **Integrity**

- data externally stored
- computation and query results



## **SLA compliance**

- assurance and certification

# Access requirements



## Data archival

- upload/download
- protection of data in storage



## Data retrieval/extraction

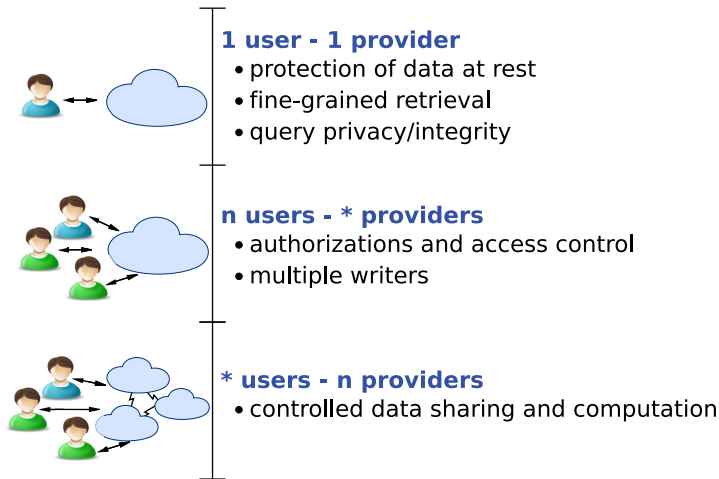
- support for fine-grained data retrieval and queries
- protection of computations and query results



## Data update

- support for access retrieval and enforcement of updates
- protection of the actions and of their effects on the data

# Architectures



# Combinations of the dimensions

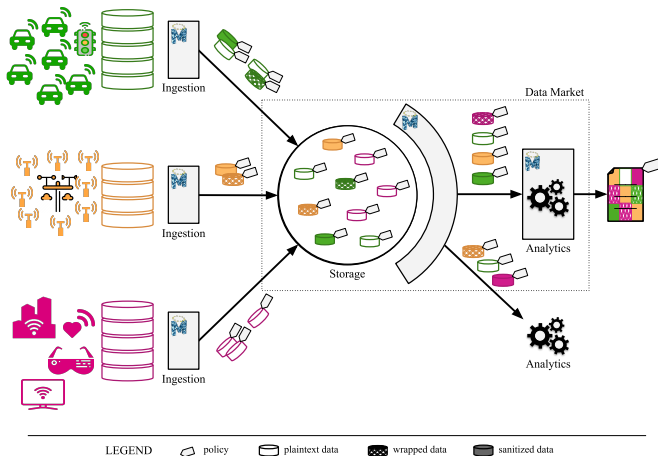
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- Every combination of the different instances of the dimensions identifies new problems and challenges
- The **security properties** to be guaranteed can depend on the **access requirements** and on the **trust assumption** on the providers involved in storage and/or processing of data
- Providers can be:
  - curious
  - lazy
  - malicious

# Digital Data Market

# Goal and vision

Enable **data sharing** and **collaborative computations** in multi-provider / multi-owner scenarios, while ensuring proper **protection** of sensitive or company-confidential information



# Dimensions of the problems and challenges

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- Requirements capturing and representation
  - policies regulating access, sharing, usage and processing
- Enforcing technologies
  - data wrapping / sanitization
- Enforcement phase
  - ingestion / storage / analytics



# Requirements capturing and representation

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Data owners need to have a way to express their requirements and having them enforced



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- **Policies** regulate access, sharing, usage and processing of data



# Enforcing technologies

Techniques and mechanisms for enforcing data protection



# Enforcing technologies

## Techniques and mechanisms for enforcing data protection

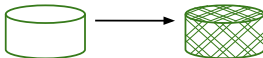
- **Wrapping:** provide protection by (partially or completely) disabling visibility of data while preserving some functionality



# Enforcing technologies

## Techniques and mechanisms for enforcing data protection

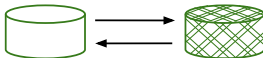
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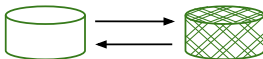
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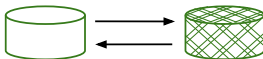
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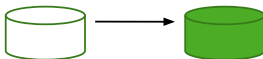
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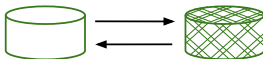




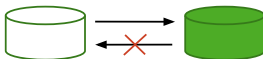
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# Enforcement phase

- Ingestion / Storage / Analytics

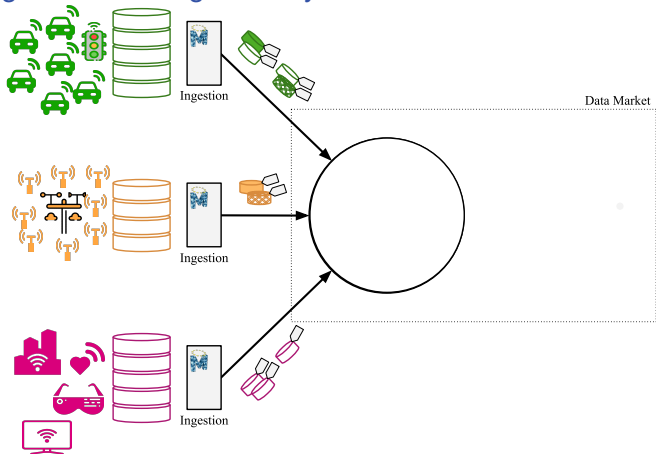


LEGEND



# Enforcement phase

- Ingestion / Storage / Analytics



LEGEND

 policy

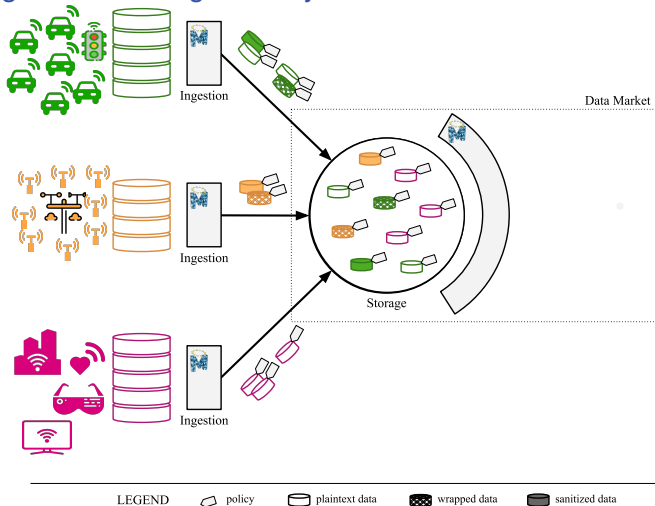
 plaintext data

 wrapped data

 sanitized data

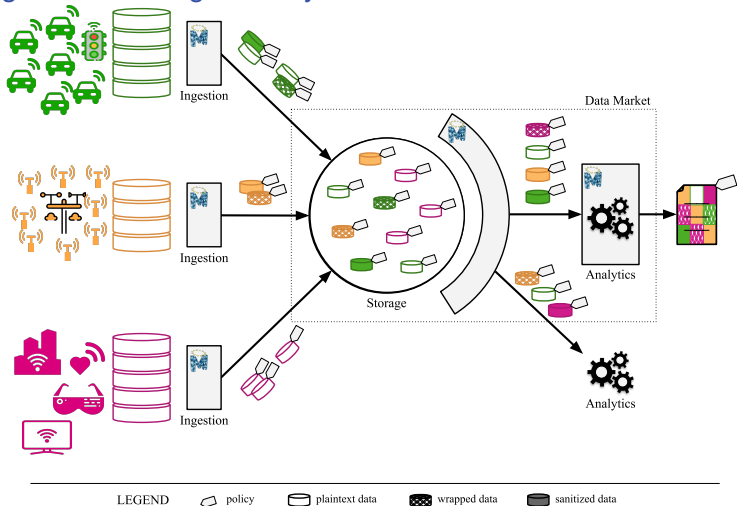
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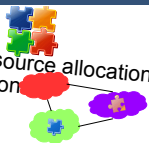


# Some open issues

Controlled collaborative query execution



Distributed resource allocation and computation



Fine-grained access over encrypted data



Secure energy-aware data management



Providers/plans selection



Security metrics



Access confidentiality



User privacy



Computation integrity



Protection of data at rest



Query privacy



Data publication and utility



Green IT and cybersecurity



Policy definition and modeling

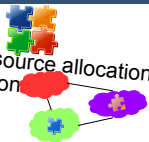


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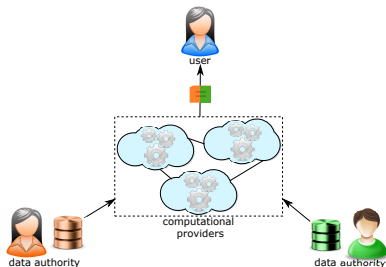
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S. De Capitani di Vimercati, S. Foresti, S. Jajodia, G. Livraga, S. Paraboschi, P. Samarati, "An Authorization Model for Query Execution in the Cloud," in *The VLDB Journal*, vol. 31, n. 3, May 2022, pp. 555-579.



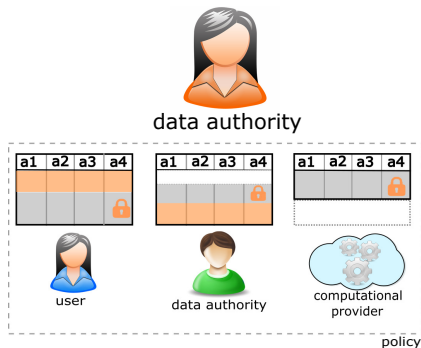
# Data markets

- Represent a promising solution for **combining** data from different sources
  - Store data of different owners that could be **sensitive**, **proprietary**, or subject to **access restrictions**
  - Participate and partially **delegate** query evaluation to third parties
- ⇒ Need solutions for supporting **controlled collaborative query execution**



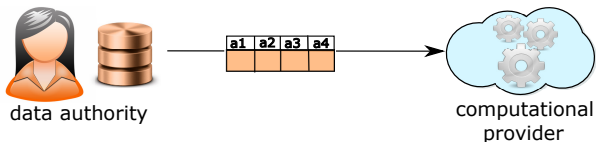
# Challenges: Policies

- Data could be sensitive, proprietary, or subject to access restrictions
- Need to define **policies** to regulate **data visibility**



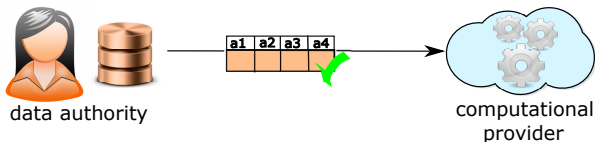
# Challenges: Information flows

- Need to ensure no information is **directly** or **indirectly** leaked in the execution process



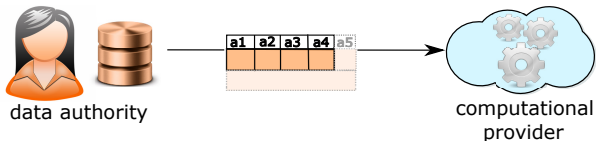
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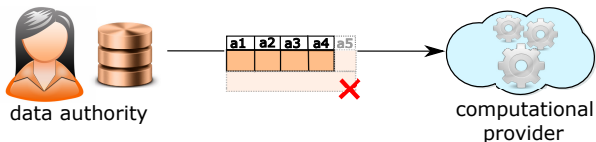
# Challenges: Information flows

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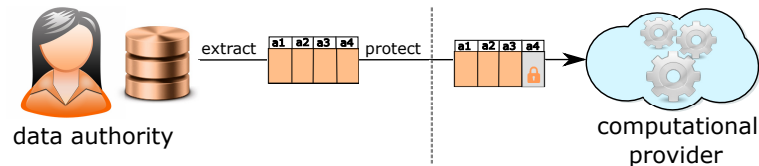
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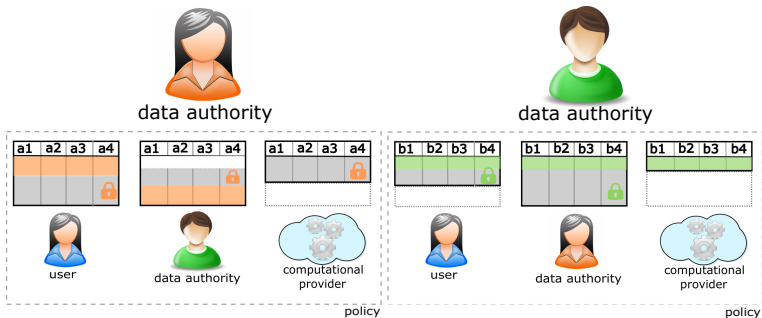
# Challenges: Policy enforcement

- Need solutions for *dynamically protect* sensitive/confidential information as needed



# Challenges: Independency

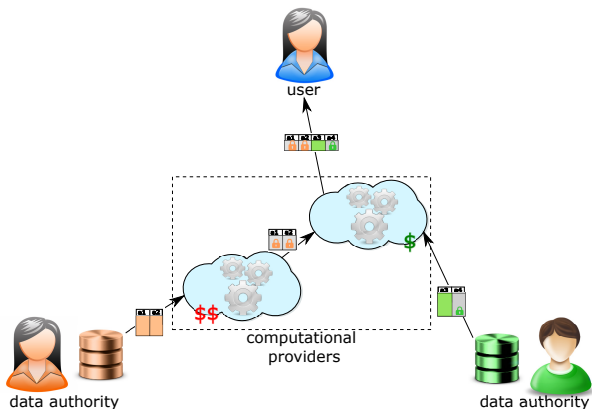
- Authorities/data owners need to **independently** specify the policies regulating access to their own data





# Challenges: Preference factors

- Need to support the **selective** involvement of **external providers** when convenient (e.g., economically) while preserving **data confidentiality**



# Some existing approaches

---

- Sovereign joins
- Access patterns
- View-based access control
- Authorizations with join paths for enabling distributed query evaluation
- ...
- Controlled data sharing for collaborative queries in the cloud

# Controlled data sharing for collaborative queries

---

- Simple yet flexible authorization model
- Plaintext/encrypted visibility over attributes
- Authorities make data available, while maintaining control
- Users can involve external providers for query evaluation while preserving data confidentiality

# Authorization model

---

- Authorities specify authorizations on their relations granting access to attributes in two forms: **plaintext** and **encrypted**

# Authorization model

- Authorities specify authorizations on their relations granting access to attributes in two forms: **plaintext** and **encrypted**

		Relation					
		HOSP@H		INS@I			
Subject	H	S	B	D	T	C	P
	I	S	B	D	T	C	P
	U	S		D	T	C	P
	X	S		D	T	C	P
	Y	S	B	D	T	C	P
	Z	S		D	T	C	P

HOSP(SSN, **B**irth, **D**isease, **T**reatment)

INS(**C**ustomer, **P**remium)

# Authorization model

- Authorities specify authorizations on their relations granting access to attributes in two forms: **plaintext** and **encrypted**
- Given a query plan, a set of cloud providers, and a set of authorizations, compute an **authorized assignment**

Relation

	HOSP@H	INS@I
H	S B D T	C P
I	S B D T	C P
U	S D T	C P
X	S D T	C P
Y	S B D T	C P
Z	S D T	C P

Subject

HOSP(SSN, **B**irth, **D**isease, **T**reatment)

INS(**C**ustomer, **P**remium)

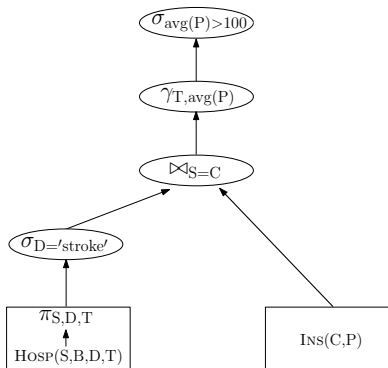
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	Z	S		D	T	C	P

SELECT	T, avg(P)
FROM	HOSP JOIN INS ON S=C
WHERE	D='stroke'
GROUP BY	T
HAVING	avg(P) > 100



HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

INS(Customer, Premium)

# Relation profile

---

- Captures **information content** of a relation  $R$  and includes



# Relation profile

---

- Captures **information content** of a relation  $R$  and includes  $v$ : **visible** attributes: plaintext or encrypted in  $R$ 's schema

# Relation profile

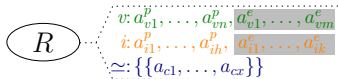
- Captures **information content** of a relation  $R$  and includes
  - $v$ : **visible** attributes: plaintext or encrypted in  $R$ 's schema
  - $i$ : **implicit** attributes: conveyed, plaintext or encrypted, by  $R$ 
    - **selection**: `SELECT S FROM HOSP WHERE D='stroke'`  
leaks the value of  $D$ , even if  $D$  does not belong to the schema
    - **grouping**: `SELECT COUNT(*) FROM HOSP JOIN INS ON S=C GROUP BY T`  
leaks information on tuples with the same value for  $T$ , even if  $T$  does not belong to the schema

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  - $\simeq$ : **equivalence relationship**: among attributes connected in  $R$ 's computation
    - **comparing** attributes: `SELECT S FROM HOSP JOIN INS ON S=C`  
leaks the values of  $C$ , even if  $C$  does not belong to the schema

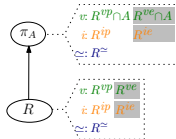
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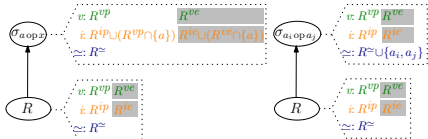


# Profiles resulting from operations

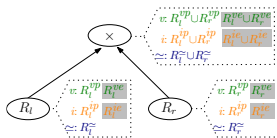
## Projection



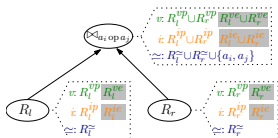
## Selection



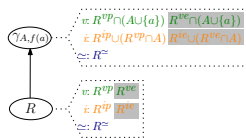
## Cartesian Product



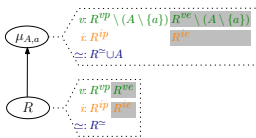
## Join



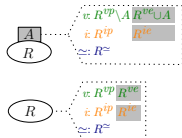
## Group by



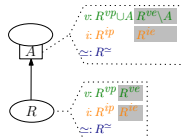
## User defined functions



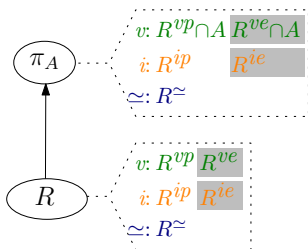
## Encryption



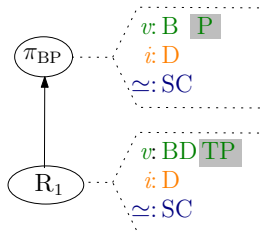
## Decryption



# Projection

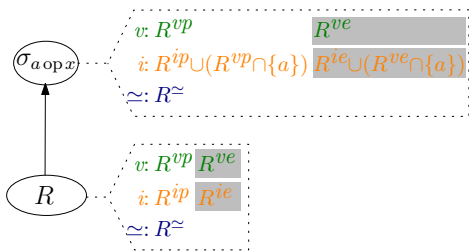


SELECT  $A$   
FROM  $R$

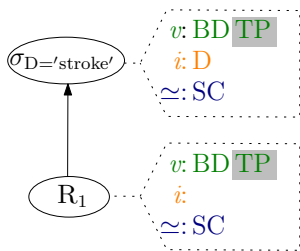


SELECT  $B, P$   
FROM  $R_1$

# Selection – 1

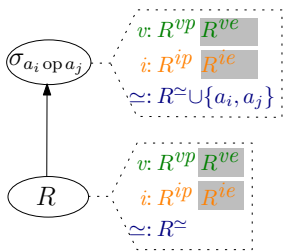


```
SELECT *
FROM R
WHERE a op x
```

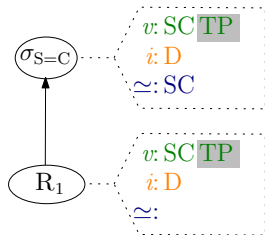


```
SELECT *
FROM R_1
WHERE D='stroke'
```

## Selection – 2



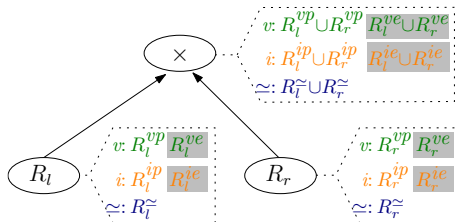
```
SELECT *
FROM R
WHERE  $a_i \text{ op } a_j$ 
```



```
SELECT *
FROM R1
WHERE S=C
```

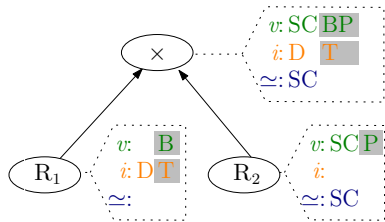


# Cartesian product



SELECT \*

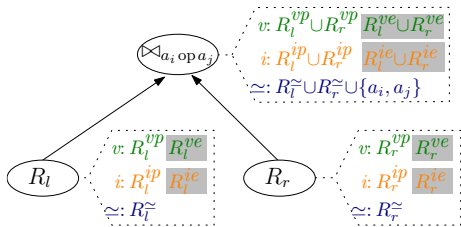
FROM  $R_l \times R_r$



SELECT \*

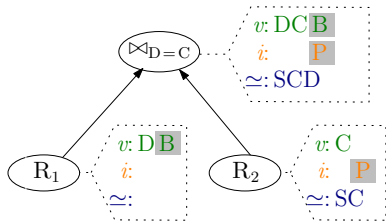
FROM  $R_1 \times R_2$

# Join



SELECT \*

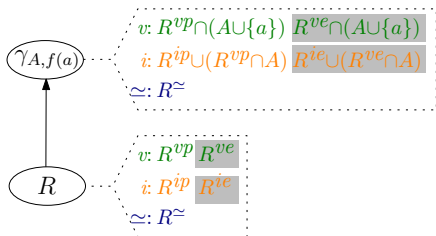
FROM  $R_l$  JOIN  $R_r$  ON  $a_i \text{ op } a_j$



SELECT \*

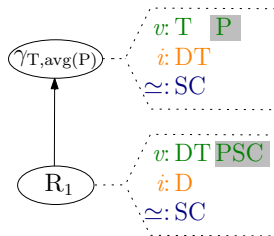
FROM  $R_1$  JOIN  $R_2$   
ON  $S=C$

# Group by



```

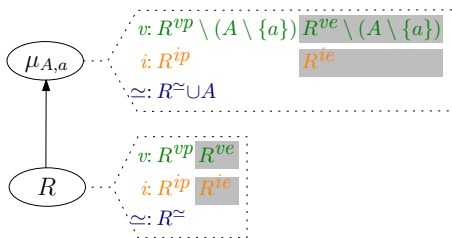
SELECT  A, f(a)
FROM    R
GROUP BY A
    
```



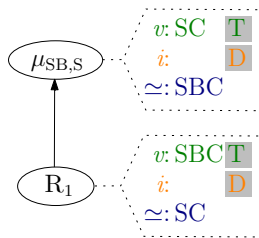
```

SELECT  T, AVG(P)
FROM    R_1
GROUP BY T
    
```

# User defined functions

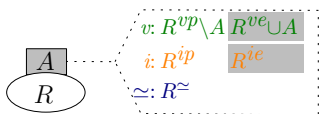


$a$  AS UDF( $A$ )

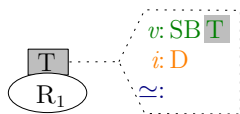


$S$  AS UDF( $S,B$ )

# Encryption

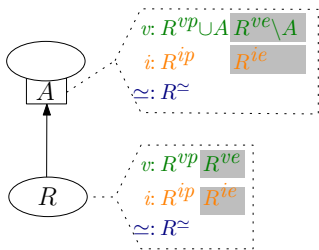


ENCRYPT( $R.A$ )

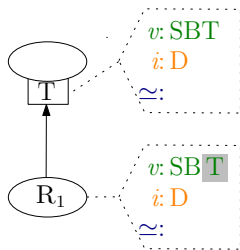


ENCRYPT( $R_1.T$ )

# Decryption



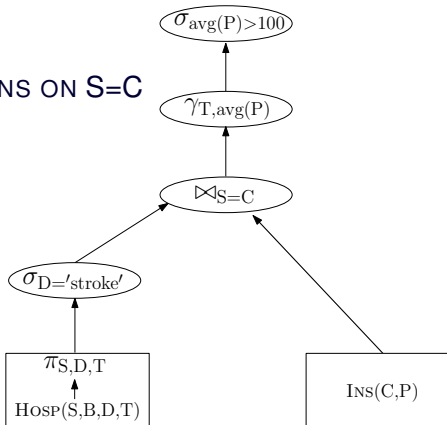
DECRYPT( $R.A$ )



DECRYPT( $R_1.T$ )

# Plan with profiles

SELECT T, avg(P)  
FROM HOSP JOIN INS ON S=C  
WHERE D='stroke'  
GROUP BY T  
HAVING avg(P) > 100

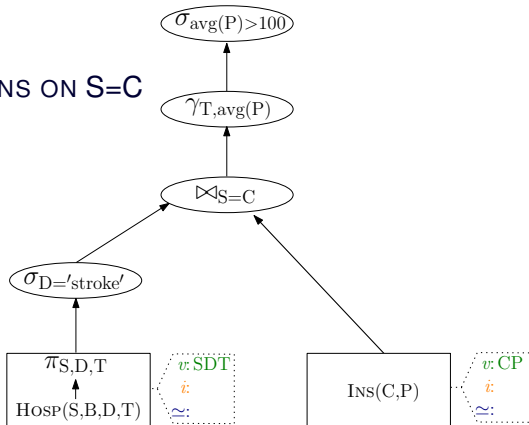


HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

INS(Customer, Premium)

# Plan with profiles

SELECT T, avg(P)  
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WHERE D='stroke'  
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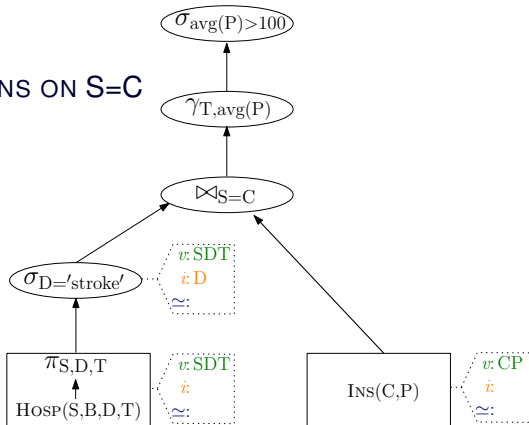
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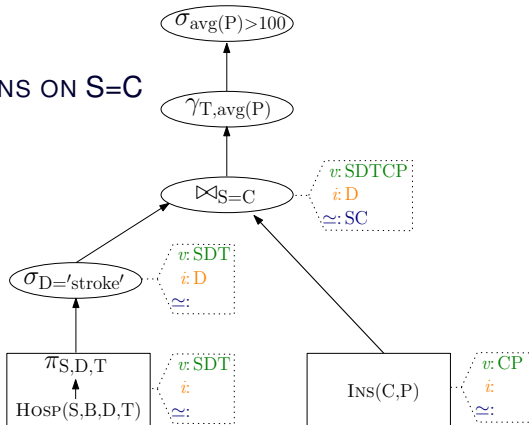


HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

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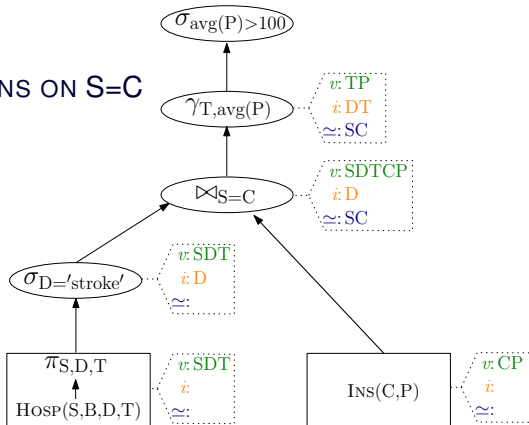


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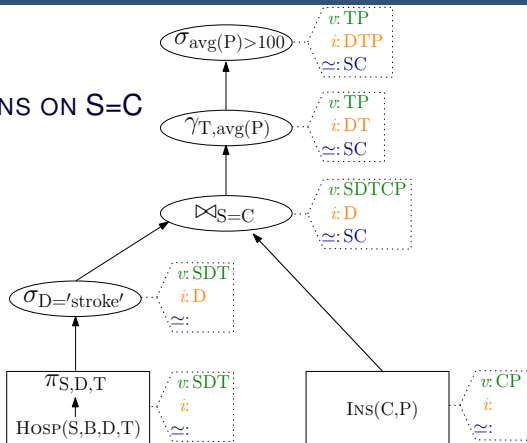


HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

INS(Customer, Premium)

# Plan with profiles

SELECT T, avg(P)  
 FROM HOSP JOIN INS ON S=C  
 WHERE D='stroke'  
 GROUP BY T  
 HAVING avg(P) > 100



HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

INS(Customer, Premium)

# Authorized visibility

---

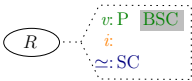
$S$  is authorized for  $R$  iff she has

- plaintext visibility on plaintext (visible or implicit) attributes
- plaintext or encrypted visibility on encrypted (visible or implicit) attributes
- uniform (plaintext or encrypted) visibility on equivalent attributes

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Relation

	Relation	
	HOSP@H	INS@I
H	S B D T	C P
I	S B D T	C P
U	S D T	C P
X	S D T	C P
Y	S B D T	C P
Z	S D T	C P

Subject

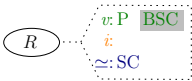
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Relation

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H	S	B	D	T	C	P
I	S	B	D	T	C	P
U	S		D	T	C	P
X	S		D	T	C	P
Y	S	B	D	T	C	P
Z	S		D	T	C	P

Subject

x cannot see P

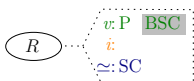
HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

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		Relation						
		HOSP@H		INS@I				
Subject	H	S	B	D	T	C	P	x cannot see P
	I	S	B	D	T	C	P	
	U	S		D	T	C	P	x cannot see B (nor B)
	X	S		D	T	C	P	x cannot see B (nor B)
	Y	S	B	D	T	C	P	
	Z	S		D	T	C	P	x cannot see B (nor B)

HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

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# Authorized visibility

$S$  is authorized for  $R$  iff she has

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- plaintext or encrypted visibility on encrypted (visible or implicit) attributes
- uniform** (plaintext or encrypted) visibility on **equivalent** attributes

$R$

$v: P$   
 $i:$   
 $\approx: SC$

Relation

		HOSP@H		INS@I		
Subject	H	S	B D T	C	P	× cannot see P
	I	S	B D T	C	P	× no uniform vis. on $\approx \{S, C\}$
	U	S	D T	C	P	× cannot see B (nor B)
	X	S	D T	C	P	× cannot see B (nor B)
	Y	S	B D T	C	P	
	Z	S	D T	C	P	× cannot see B (nor B)

HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

INS(Customer, Premium)

# Authorized visibility

$S$  is authorized for  $R$  iff she has

- plaintext visibility on plaintext (visible or implicit) attributes
- plaintext or encrypted visibility on encrypted (visible or implicit) attributes
- uniform (plaintext or encrypted) visibility on equivalent attributes

$R$

$v: P$   
 $i: BSC$   
 $\simeq: SC$

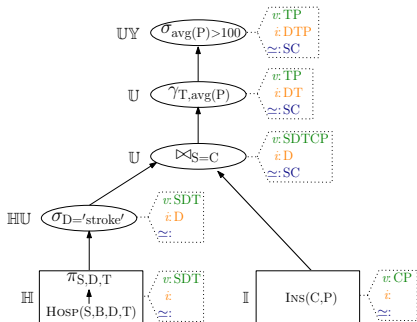
		Relation		
		HOSP@H	INS@I	
Subject	H	S B D T	C P	× cannot see P
	I	S B D T	C P	× no uniform vis. on $\simeq \{S, C\}$
	U	S D T	C P	× cannot see B (nor B)
	X	S D T	C P	× cannot see B (nor B)
	Y	S B D T	C P	✓ authorized
	Z	S D T	C P	× cannot see B (nor B)

HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

INS(Customer, Premium)

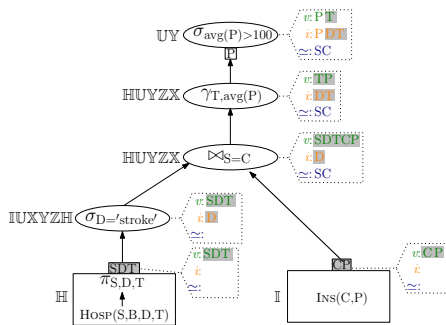
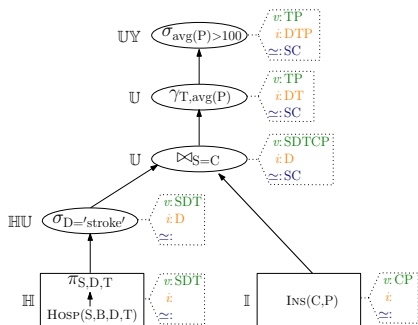
# Compute assignments

- Encrypting attributes not needed in plaintext for operands evaluation can increase candidates



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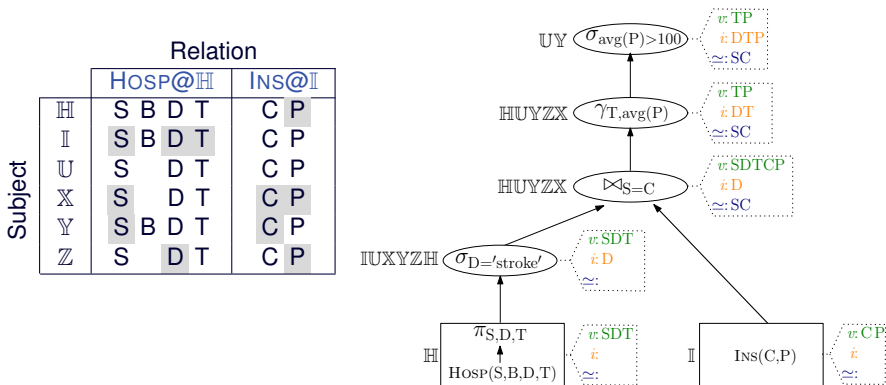


HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

INS(Customer, Premium)

# Minimally extended query plan

- Given a candidate for each node
  - encrypt attributes when needed for obeying authorizations
  - decrypt attributes when needed for the execution of an operation

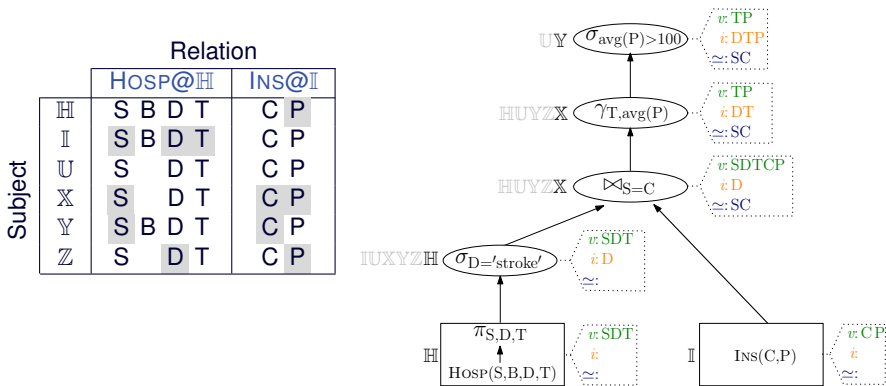


HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

INS(Customer, Premium)

# Minimally extended query plan

- Given a candidate for each node
  - encrypt attributes when needed for obeying authorizations
  - decrypt attributes when needed for the execution of an operation



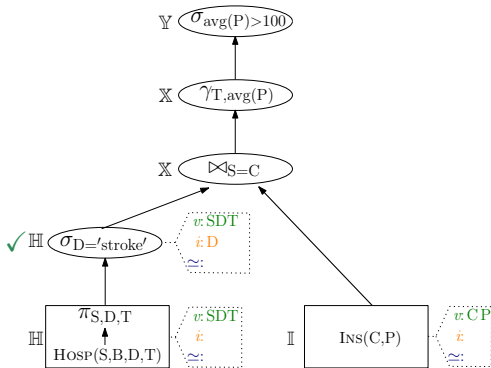
HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

INS(Customer, Premium)

# Minimally extended query plan

- Given a candidate for each node
  - encrypt attributes when needed for obeying authorizations
  - decrypt attributes when needed for the execution of an operation

		Relation	
		HOSP@H	INS@I
Subject	H	S B D T	C P
	I	S B D T	C P
	U	S D T	C P
	X	S D T	C P
	Y	S B D T	C P
	Z	S D T	C P



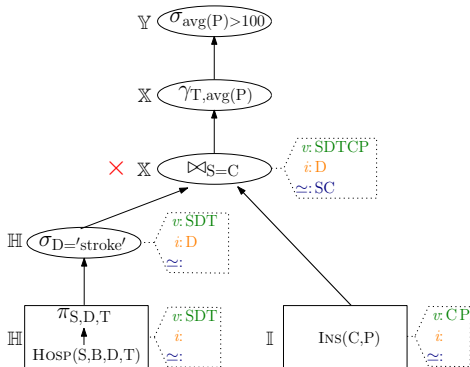
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		Relation					
		HOSP@H		INS@I			
Subject	H	S	B	D	T	C	P
	I	S	B	D	T	C	P
	U	S		D	T	C	P
	X	S		D	T	C	P
	Y	S	B	D	T	C	P
	Z	S		D	T	C	P



HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

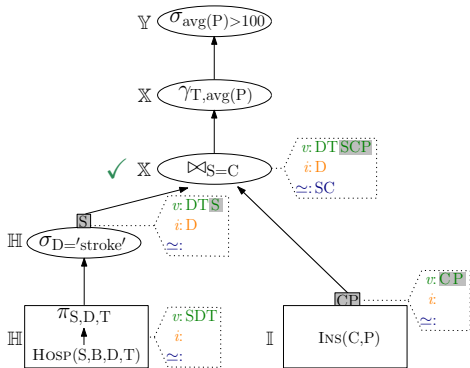
INS(Customer, Premium)



# Minimally extended query plan

- Given a candidate for each node
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		Relation	
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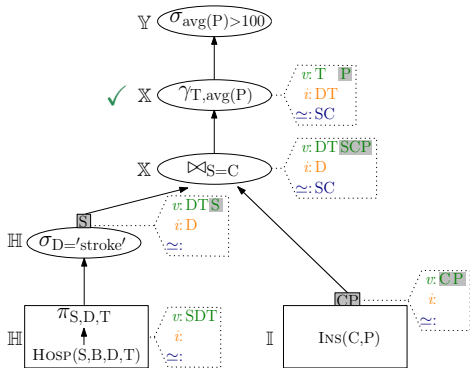
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	X	S D T	C P
	Y	S B D T	C P
	Z	S D T	C P



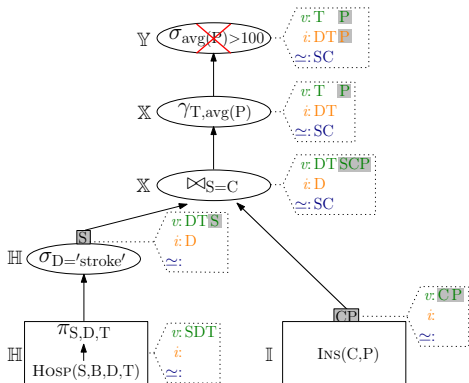
HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

INS(Customer, Premium)

# Minimally extended query plan

- Given a candidate for each node
  - encrypt attributes when needed for obeying authorizations
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		Relation					
		HOSP@H	INS@I				
Subject	H	S	B	D	T	C	P
	I	S	B	D	T	C	P
	U	S		D	T	C	P
	X	S		D	T	C	P
	Y	S	B	D	T	C	P
	Z	S		D	T	C	P



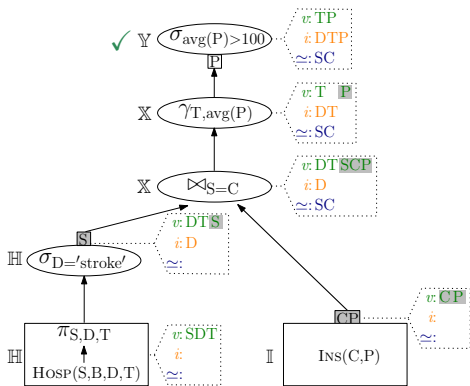
HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

INS(Customer, Premium)

# Minimally extended query plan

- Given a candidate for each node
  - encrypt attributes when needed for obeying authorizations
  - decrypt attributes when needed for the execution of an operation

		Relation	
		HOSP@H	INS@I
Subject	H	S B D T	C P
	I	S B D T	C P
	U	S D T	C P
	X	S D T	C P
	Y	S B D T	C P
	Z	S D T	C P

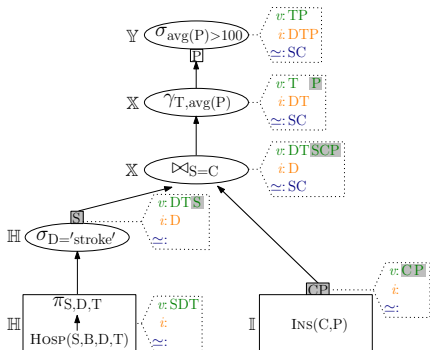


HOSP(SSN, Birth, Disease, Treatment)

INS(Customer, Premium)

# Key management

- Attributes in conditions comparing them **must** use the **same key**  
 $\implies$  attributes in the same **equivalence set** in the root use the same key
- Keys distributed to subjects in charge of enc/dec

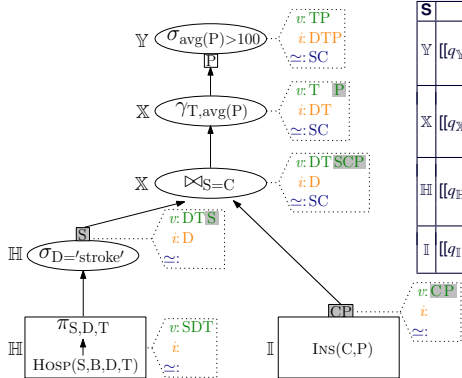


$k_{SC}$ : same key for S and C given to  $\mathbb{H}$  for encrypting S,  $\mathbb{I}$  for encrypting C

$k_P$ : key for P given to  $\mathbb{I}$  for encryption,  $\mathbb{Y}$  for decryption

# Query dispatch

- Each sub-query is signed with the private key of the user and encrypted with the public key of the assignee



S	Receives (req <sub>S</sub> )	Performs (q <sub>S</sub> )
Y	$[[q_Y, (P, k_P)]_{\text{priv}_Y}]_{\text{pub}_Y}$	SELECT T, decrypt( $P^k, k_P$ ) AS P FROM [[req <sub>X</sub> ]] WHERE P > 100
X	$[[q_X, -]_{\text{priv}_X}]_{\text{pub}_X}$	SELECT T, avg( $P^k$ ) AS $P^k$ FROM [[req <sub>H</sub> ]] JOIN [[req <sub>I</sub> ]] ON $S^k = C^k$ GROUP BY T
H	$[[q_H, (S, k_{SC})]_{\text{priv}_H}]_{\text{pub}_H}$	SELECT encrypt( $S, k_{SC}$ ), D, T FROM HOSP WHERE D = 'stroke'
I	$[[q_I, (C, k_{SC})(P, k_P)]_{\text{priv}_I}]_{\text{pub}_I}$	SELECT encrypt( $C, k_{SC}$ ), encrypt( $P, k_P$ ) FROM INS

# Summary

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Novel and flexible approach for collaborative query evaluation

- authorities regulate access to their data
- users selectively involve external providers
- experiments show cost/performance savings in respect of authorizations

Several variations/open issues still need to be considered ...

## Other Considerations



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# Economic/Performance Costs

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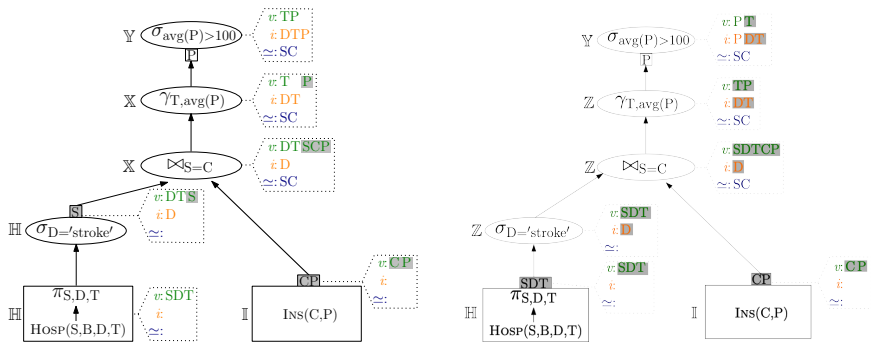
S. De Capitani di Vimercati, S. Foresti, S. Jajodia, G. Livraga, S. Paraboschi, P. Samarati, "An Authorization Model for Query Execution in the Cloud," in *The VLDB Journal*, vol. 31, n. 3, May 2022, pp. 555-579.

# Economic/performance costs

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- Different **authorized assignments** may bear different economic/performance cost:
  - cost of **encryption/decryption**
  - cost of **computation**
  - cost of **data transmission**

# Economic/performance costs – Example



⇒ determine an assignment that leverages **on-the-fly encryption** to **minimize** overall cost (including cost of encryption/decryption)

# Computing a minimum cost assignment

- Two steps approach:
  1. Compute candidates based on authorizations and assuming to encrypt all attributes not needed in plaintext for operands evaluation
  2. Determine an assignment such that the resulting query plan has minimum cost
- Minimization of the overall cost of query execution:

$$\min(\underbrace{\text{OP\_EXEC}}_{\text{operation execution}} + \underbrace{\text{ENC\_DEC}}_{\text{encryption/decryption}} + \underbrace{\text{TRANSF}}_{\text{data transfer}})$$

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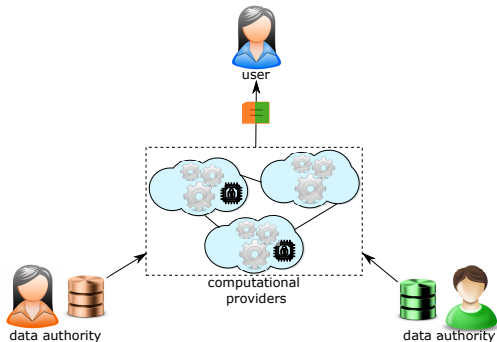
# Trusted Hardware

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S. De Capitani di Vimercati, S. Foresti, S. Jajodia, G. Livraga, S. Paraboschi, P. Samarati, "Distributed Query Execution under Access Restrictions," in *COSE*, vol. 127, April 2023

# Trusted hardware – 1

- Providers could be equipped with trusted hardware components for query execution



⇒ need to integrate the use of a trusted hardware in the authorization model by properly defining its visibility over the data

## Trusted hardware – 2

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- Transmission of data to the trusted hardware is mediated by the subject hosting it
- Modeled as a different subject with authorizations more permissive than the ones of the subject hosting it
  - can access in plaintext at least the same attributes accessible to the hosting subject
  - can access in plaintext or encrypted a subset of the set of plaintext and encrypted attributes accessible to the hosting subject

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# Data Encryption in Storage

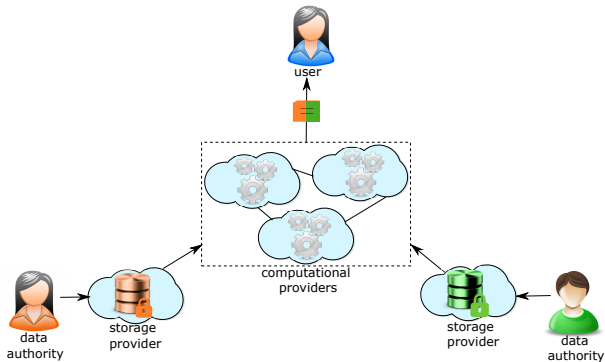
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S. De Capitani di Vimercati, S. Foresti, S. Jajodia, G. Livraga, S. Paraboschi, P. Samarati, "Distributed Query Execution under Access Restrictions," in *COSE*, vol. 127, April 2023



# Encryption for protecting data in storage

Data stored at external storage providers might be **encrypted** by their owner for **confidentiality**



need mechanisms to support **collaborative query execution** over **encrypted data**

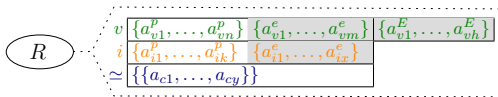
# Collaborative computations over encrypted data

- In-storage encryption

- is **static** and might not support the evaluation of the operations
- is **independently** applied by each owner (different schemas and/or keys) and hence does not support comparison

⇒ **re-encryption** by authorized subjects to support collaborative query execution over data encrypted in storage

- **Relation profile** extended to capture the possible **encrypted representation** of attributes in storage



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# Data and Computation Integrity

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S. De Capitani di Vimercati, S. Foresti, S. Jajodia, S. Paraboschi, R. Sassi, P. Samarati, "Sentinels and Twins: Effective Integrity Assessment for Distributed Computation," in *IEEE TPDS*, vol. 34, n. 1, January 2023, pp. 108-122

# Data and computation integrity – 1

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- Data storage and processing may be performed by **non trustworthy providers**
- Need mechanisms that provide **integrity** for query results:
  - **correctness**: computed on genuine data
  - **completeness**: computed on the whole data collection
  - **freshness**: computed on the most recent version of the data

## Data and computation integrity – 2

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- **Deterministic solutions** based on a data structure (e.g., signature chains, Merkle hash trees, skip lists), need knowledge of the workload
- **Probabilistic solutions** based on dynamic insertion of control information:
  - **markers/sentinels**: fake tuples/tasks for which result is known
  - **data job/replication**: replicated tuples/tasks to check consistency in the result

# Probabilistic approach for join queries

- A client, with the cooperation of the storage servers, can assess the integrity of joins performed by a computational cloud
- Protection techniques:
  - **encryption** makes data unintelligible
  - **markers**, fake tuples not recognizable as such by the computational cloud (and not colliding with real tuples)
  - **twins**, replication of existing tuples
- A marker missing or a twin appearing solo  $\implies$  **integrity violation**
- **Probabilistic guarantee** depending on the amount of control (markers and twins) inserted

# On-the-fly encryption

- Server  $S$  encrypts  $B(I, Att)$ , obtaining  $B_k(I_k, B.Tuple_k)$ 
  - For each  $t$  in  $B$ , there is  $\tau$  in  $B_k$ :  $\tau[I_k]=E_k(t[I])$  and  $\tau[B.Tuple_k]=E_k(t)$
  - $E$  is a **symmetric** encryption function with key  $k$
  - $k$  is defined by the client and **changes** at every query
- Encryption provides data **confidentiality**

$L$

	<b>I</b>	<b>Attr</b>
$l_1$	a	Ann
$l_2$	b	Beth
$l_3$	c	Cloe

$R$

	<b>I</b>	<b>Attr</b>
$r_1$	a	flu
$r_2$	a	asthma
$r_3$	b	ulcer
$r_4$	e	hernia
$r_5$	e	flu
$r_6$	e	cancer

$J$

	<b>L.I</b>	<b>L.Attr</b>	<b>R.I</b>	<b>R.Attr</b>	
$l_1$	a	Ann	a	flu	$r_1$
$l_1$	a	Ann	a	asthma	$r_2$
$l_2$	b	Beth	b	ulcer	$r_3$

# On-the-fly encryption

- Server  $S$  encrypts  $B(I, Att)$ , obtaining  $B_k(I_k, B.Tuple_k)$ 
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  - $k$  is defined by the client and **changes** at every query
- Encryption provides data **confidentiality**

$L_k$

$I_k$	$L.Tuple_k$
$\alpha$	$\lambda_1$
$\beta$	$\lambda_2$
$\gamma$	$\lambda_3$

$R_k$

$I_k$	$R.Tuple_k$
$\alpha$	$\rho_1$
$\alpha$	$\rho_2$
$\beta$	$\rho_3$
$\varepsilon$	$\rho_4$
$\varepsilon$	$\rho_5$
$\varepsilon$	$\rho_6$

$J_k$

$L.I_k$	$L.Attr_k$	$R.I_k$	$R.Attr_k$
$\alpha$	$\lambda_1$	$\alpha$	$\rho_1$
$\alpha$	$\lambda_1$	$\alpha$	$\rho_2$
$\beta$	$\lambda_2$	$\beta$	$\rho_3$



# Markers

- Artificial tuples injected into  $L$  by  $S_l$  and  $R$  by  $S_r$ 
  - not recognizable by the computational server
  - do not generate spurious tuples
  - inserted in a concerted manner to guarantee that they belong to the join result
- The absence of markers signals incompleteness of the join result

$L$

	I	Attr
$l_1$	a	Ann
$l_2$	b	Beth
$l_3$	c	Cloe

$R$

	I	Attr
$r_1$	a	flu
$r_2$	a	asthma
$r_3$	b	ulcer
$r_4$	e	hernia
$r_5$	e	flu
$r_6$	e	cancer

$J$

	L.I	L.Attr	R.I	R.Attr	
$l_1$	a	Ann	a	flu	$r_1$
$l_1$	a	Ann	a	asthma	$r_2$
$l_2$	b	Beth	b	ulcer	$r_3$

# Markers

- Artificial tuples injected into  $L$  by  $S_l$  and  $R$  by  $S_r$ 
  - not recognizable by the computational server
  - do not generate spurious tuples
  - inserted in a concerted manner to guarantee that they belong to the join result
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$L^*$

	I	Attr
$l_1$	a	Ann
$l_2$	b	Beth
$l_3$	c	Cloe
$m_1$	x	marker <sub>1</sub>

$R^*$

	I	Attr
$r_1$	a	flu
$r_2$	a	asthma
$r_3$	b	ulcer
$r_4$	e	hernia
$r_5$	e	flu
$r_6$	e	cancer
$m_2$	x	marker <sub>2</sub>

$J^*$

	L.I	L.Attr	R.I	R.Attr	
$l_1$	a	Ann	a	flu	$r_1$
$l_1$	a	Ann	a	asthma	$r_2$
$l_2$	b	Beth	b	ulcer	$r_3$
$m_1$	x	marker <sub>1</sub>	x	marker <sub>2</sub>	$m_2$

# Twins

- Duplicates of tuples that satisfy condition  $C_{\text{twin}}$  that
  - is defined on the join attribute  $I$
  - tunes the percentage  $p_t$  of twins
  - is defined by the client and communicated to  $S_l$  and  $S_r$
- Twin pairs are not recognizable by the computational server
- A twin appearing solo signals incompleteness of the join result

$L$

	I	Attr
$l_1$	a	Ann
$l_2$	b	Beth
$l_3$	c	Cloe

$R$

	I	Attr
$r_1$	a	flu
$r_2$	a	asthma
$r_3$	b	ulcer
$r_4$	e	hernia
$r_5$	e	flu
$r_6$	e	cancer

$J$

	L.I	L.Attr	R.I	R.Attr	
$l_1$	a	Ann	a	flu	$r_1$
$l_1$	a	Ann	a	asthma	$r_2$
$l_2$	b	Beth	b	ulcer	$r_3$

# Twins

- Duplicates of tuples that satisfy condition  $C_{\text{twin}}$  that
  - is defined on the join attribute  $I$
  - tunes the percentage  $p_t$  of twins
  - is defined by the client and communicated to  $S_l$  and  $S_r$
- Twin pairs are not recognizable by the computational server
- A twin appearing solo signals incompleteness of the join result

$L^*$

	I	Attr
$l_1$	a	Ann
$l_2$	b	Beth
$l_3$	c	Cloe
$\bar{l}_2$	$\bar{b}$	Beth

$R^*$

	I	Attr
$r_1$	a	flu
$r_2$	a	asthma
$r_3$	b	ulcer
$r_4$	e	hernia
$r_5$	e	flu
$r_6$	e	cancer
$\bar{r}_3$	$\bar{b}$	ulcer

$J^*$

	L.I	L.Attr	R.I	R.Attr	
$l_1$	a	Ann	a	flu	$r_1$
$l_1$	a	Ann	a	asthma	$r_2$
$l_2$	b	Beth	b	ulcer	$r_3$
$\bar{l}_2$	$\bar{b}$	Beth	$\bar{b}$	ulcer	$\bar{r}_3$

# Probabilistic approach for join queries – Example

**CLIENT**

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**COMPUTATIONAL CLOUD**

---

L

**STORAGE SERVER  $S_l$**

R

**STORAGE SERVER  $S_r$**

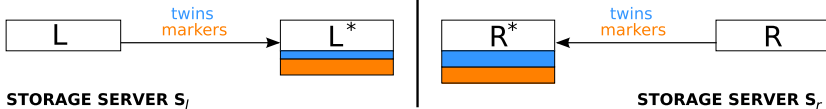
# Probabilistic approach for join queries – Example

CLIENT

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COMPUTATIONAL CLOUD

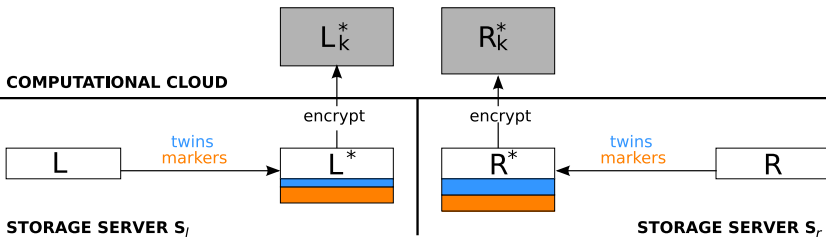
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# Probabilistic approach for join queries – Example

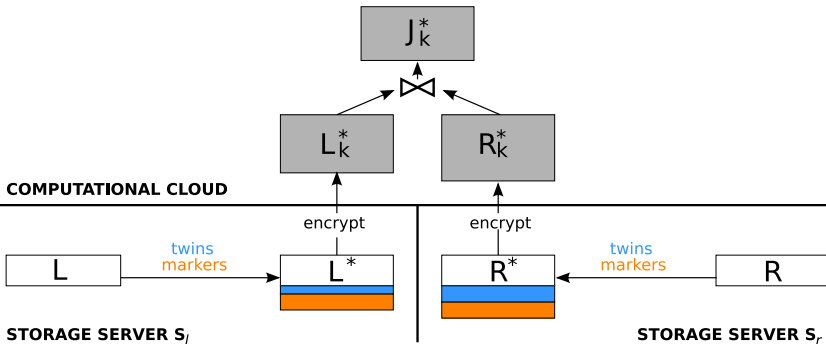
CLIENT

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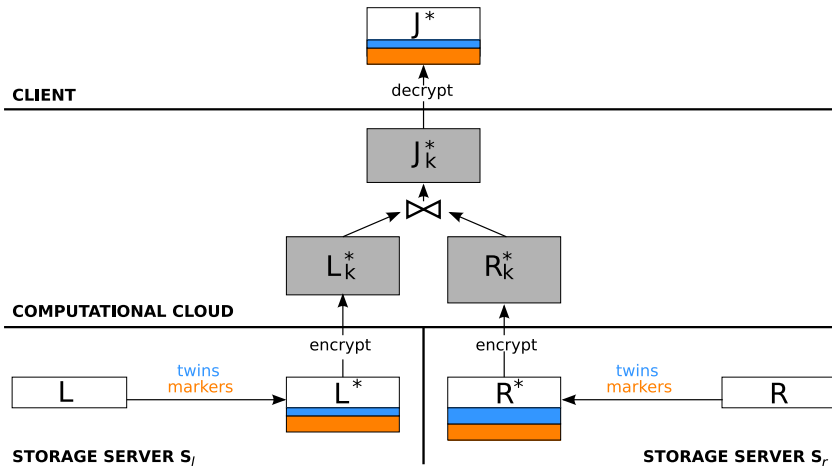
# Probabilistic approach for join queries – Example

CLIENT

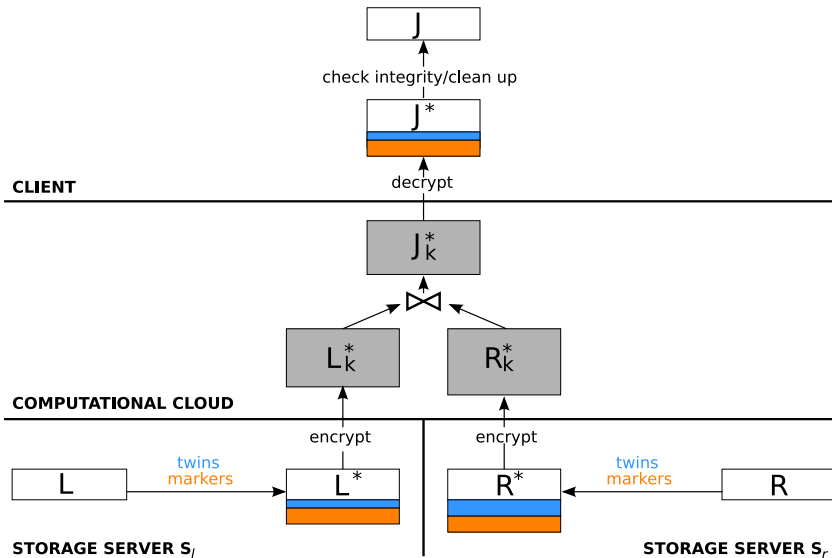




# Probabilistic approach for join queries – Example



# Probabilistic approach for join queries – Example



# Markers and twins: Integrity guarantees

- The guarantee offered by markers and twins can be measured as the probability of the computational cloud to go undetected when omitting tuples
- Markers and twins offer complementary protection:
  - Twins are twice as effective as markers, but lose their effectiveness when the computational cloud omits a large fraction of tuples (extreme case: all tuples omitted)
  - Markers allow detecting extreme behavior (all tuples omitted) and provide effective when the computational cloud omits a large fraction of tuples

# Markers and twins: Some considerations

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- For 1:n joins, **join profile** needs to be **protected** (salts and buckets)
- Markers and twins need to be **non recognizable**
- Consideration of **generic computations** involving different sets of workers

# Conclusions

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- Advancements in ICT and networks:
  - enable new and better applications and services, bringing social and economic benefits
  - need to address new security and privacy risks and challenges

... towards allowing society to fully benefit from information technology while enjoying security and privacy